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needed, the digger locating them by prodding the soil with a pointed stick. The patches are small and are always near the village. 244

Sugar cane grows in isolated clumps in or near the villages. I saw no plantations. The stalks are chewed, like candy, and bundles of the leaves are sometimes used as torches. The juice is also extracted by crushing the cane between wooden rollers. This is allowed to ferment and is then drunk as beer or distilled into rum. No sugar or syrup is made. 249

Castor oil plants are often to be seen growing near the villages and a few of them are sometimes planted in the *tavy*. The oil is extracted with a crude press, like that used for honey. It is used in hair dressing and is often a part of charms. Whole beans are also used to make a sort of taper or night light. [354]

Small and extremely hot red peppers are used as a condiment. They grow wild on old village sites and abandoned fields. 263

The Tanala believe that all their crops are indigenous. A very careful investigation failed to reveal any traditions of the introduction of maize, manioc or tobacco. 241 173

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

The Tanala originally had the following domestic animals: dogs (*amboha*), cattle (*omby*), goats (*bengy*), chickens (*akoho*), and a very large duck with dark plumage and red wattles (*dokotra*). Sheep, cats, ordinary ducks and geese and turkeys have all been introduced within the historic period, but are of little economic importance. In the drier and less heavily forested parts of the Tanala territory guinea fowl have been semi-domesticated since ancient times. Eggs are taken from the nests of the wild birds and the young hatched and reared by hens. They are fed on a special diet of termite eggs and larvae. Apparently guinea fowl will not breed in captivity and are usually killed as soon as they become full grown. 231

The native dog is almost extinct, due to repeated crossing with other breeds. It stands about 18 inches at the shoulder and is solid yellowish brown or black, with white under parts. The coat is medium long, fine and glossy. The tail is fringed and is carried low. The head is wide between the ears, with a muzzle of medium length and strong jaws. The ears are rather large, pointed, and erect. The animal appears stealthy in its movements and rarely barks.

Dogs are used to trail wild pig and to bring the animal to bay, so that it can be speared by the hunters. They are never used [224]

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782 [437] Chickens are much used for small sacrifices, such as those made in fulfilment of vows. Usually only the head and feet are actually offered, the rest being eaten by the sacrificer. They are also largely used in payment of fees to midwives, circumcisers and medicine-men. [541] Cock fighting, which is an important sport in the plateau, seems to be rare or lacking among the Tanala.

235 *Dokotra*, the large native ducks, are valued much more than chickens and can be bought only at exorbitant prices. They are relatively rare and I never saw more than four or five in a village. Their eggs are considered a great delicacy. They usually sleep and nest in the dwelling.

PETS

231 The Tanala are moderately fond of pets. The *zafimbato*, an animal much like an ordinary tabby cat in size, color and general appearance, is sometimes caught young and tamed. It is allowed to run free and helps to keep down rats and mice. The natives say it does not breed in captivity. Apparently it will cross with the ordinary domestic cat, a recent introduction, but I could not learn whether the offspring are fertile.

In nearly all the villages I saw pet lemurs. Three or four species were represented, a medium-sized gray animal and the large black and white lemur being the commonest. They were always kept tethered by a band around the waist. They seemed to be imperfectly tamed, although this may have been partly due to my being a white man. However, I never saw a native attempt to fondle one and I was often warned that they would bite.

In the southern part of the Menabe territory I saw a few birds kept in cages of open wicker work. These were usually hung up outside, under the eaves of the houses, but I saw one fastened to the top of a long pole. The birds were small and looked like larks or thrushes. Although parrots are common in this region, they do not seem to be kept as pets.

HUNTING

224 [136] The heavy forests of the Tanala country contain many sorts of small game but the only large species are the wild pig and *fossa*, a cat-like carnivor related to the genets. These will attack a human being when cornered, but are not dangerous ordinarily. There are a few Tanala families who live in the forest and subsist entirely on game and wild plants, but they are not numerous. There are no hunting tribes and no individually owned hunting territories. The

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bulk of the population hunts only for sport or to vary its regular vegetable diet. Pigs are coursed with dogs, brought to bay, and killed with spears which are shorter, heavier and broader in the blade than the ordinary fighting spears. Old boars fight fiercely and hunters are not infrequently wounded or even killed. Lemurs, birds and other small game are hunted with the blow gun and there is a limited use of the bow (see Weapons). 224

Most animals are trapped. Pigs are caught with nooses spread across their runs. The noose is attached to a drag pole, 3 or 4 inches in diameter and about 5 feet long, which soon becomes entangled in the underbrush and holds the animal fast. They are also caught in a wooden cage with a drop door held up by a stick. The stick is jerked out by a spring pole which is held down by a trigger inside the cage. The cages are baited with lines of bait leading to them. Pitfalls for pigs are dug in the fields. They are about 4 feet across and 5 to 7 feet deep, with pointed bottoms so that the animal becomes wedged. Two sharpened bamboos are often set upright in the bottom. They are covered with a light framework of sticks and grass, and sweet potato vines are planted around and trained to grow over them.

Lemurs are caught in unbaited traps. These animals are arboreal and rarely descend to the ground. The natives cut long lanes, too wide for the animals to jump across, through the forest. At intervals these lanes are bridged by poles or long bamboos. In the center of each bridge a small V-shaped gate is fastened in such a way that the lemur must pass through it (Fig. 2, a). In the gate there is a slip noose connected with a spring pole or heavy stone held by a trigger in the gate. The animal thrusts its head into the noose and displaces the trigger so that the cord is drawn taut. The cutting of the lanes requires considerable labor, but the same ones may be used for years. Each lane belongs to the family which has cut it and no one else may set traps there. At the present time the government roads are often used in this way. The neighboring tribes say that if a Tanala traps several lemurs at the same time he will release those he does not want, putting an earmark on them. If they are males he will also castrate them, so that they will grow large and fat. Anyone who catches such a marked animal is expected to return it to its owner. I neglected to verify this among the Tanala, but think it is probably true. The *trandra*, *sora* and *sokona*, hedgehog-like animals of which the *trandra* is the largest, are caught in bottle-shaped pits. The mouth of the pit is covered with grass, [422] [136]

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224 with bait on top and trails of bait leading to it. These animals are common only on the eastern edge of the Tanala territory, where the forest is less dense. Rats are never eaten, but they often become a pest, destroying the stored rice. They are caught in a variety of traps. The simplest is a deadfall made from a large stone or billet of wood supported by three sticks arranged in a figure four, as in American rabbit traps. A more elaborate form has a wooden base with two upright pegs which pass through holes in the weight and serve to guide it in its fall. Here also the weight is supported by a figure four. Another trap is made from a length of large bamboo, with a spring pole and noose of small cord. The cord passes through a hole in the bamboo and the noose is spread around the interior of the joint, the cord above the noose being held down by a small trigger. The bait is put at the bottom of the joint, beyond the noose, and in trying to reach it the rat releases the trigger and is snared. The most interesting of the rat traps is made on the bow principle. Two heavy strips of springy wood are tied together at both ends. In the center a tube of bamboo is placed with a close-fitting wooden plunger. In the side of the tube there is a hole large enough to admit the rat's head. The bows are drawn apart until the plunger is at the level of the top of the hole. It is then fastened there by a cord which passes through perforations in the sides of the tube and under the end of the plunger. This cord is soaked in meat juice and when the rat gnaws it away the bows bring the plunger down with enough force to crush the animal's head (Fig. 2, c).

223 Guinea fowl are caught with a spring pole and noose held down by a trigger. The noose is laid flat on the ground with bait in the center and is surrounded by a fence of little sticks so that the bird will be sure to enter it. Guinea fowl are also caught by digging a little pit 3 or 4 inches deep and putting in the bottom a wooden cross with ground nuts impaled on the ends. A noose is spread about the sides of the pit, just below the edge. In attempting to pick out the nuts the bird, when it raises its head, displaces the noose and draws it taut. Long guinea snares with a series of hanging loops, which are used by the plateau tribes, do not seem to be employed by the Tanala. Hawks, which do a great deal of damage to the native poultry, are also caught in snares. A rod is laid on the ground supported on two little sticks half an inch high. A little chicken or duckling is bound to this and the noose spread around it, over the rod. When the hawk seizes its prey it lifts rod and all and the noose tightens about its feet. Ground birds other than guinea fowl are caught in cages

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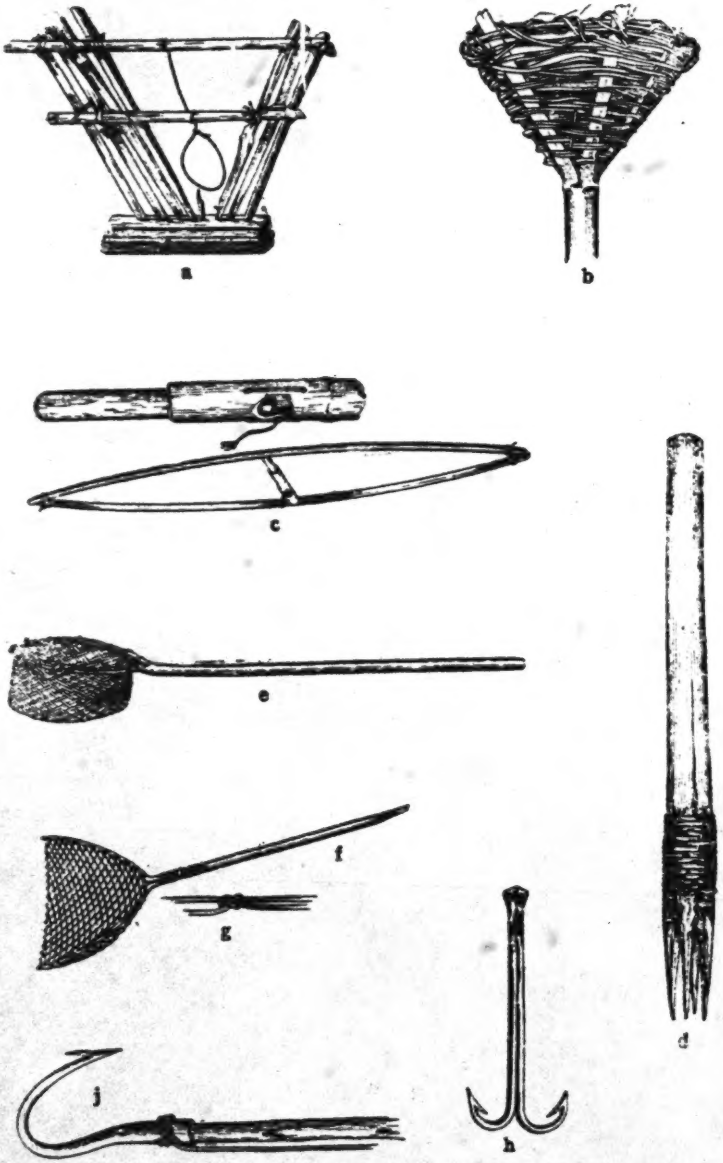

FIG. 2. Hunting and Fishing. a, Lemur Trap; b, Hen's Nest; c, Rat Trap; d, Fish Spear, Ancient Type; e, Basket Dip Net; f, Dip Net; g, Netting Knot; h, j, Eel Hooks.

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524 The top principle is also employed in a game of skill played by
[525] men and older boys, often with wagers. The tops used in this game are made from large, flat seeds about 1½ inches in diameter and ⅜ to ½ inch thick. A round hole about ¾ inch in diameter is cut in one side of the seed and the kernel removed. A bone point is then attached to the lower side with beeswax (Fig. 27, g). The player spins the seed by inserting the tips of the index fingers of both hands in the opening in its top and giving it a quick twirl. The players stand and flip their tops at another seed of the same variety lying on the ground, or at a small hole or other mark. The player who strikes the mark with the bone point on his seed wins.

Stilts, known by a term which means literally "wooden feet," have been used since prehistoric times. They are made from saplings about 1½ inches in diameter and 5 feet long. About 18 inches from the bottom the stub of a small branch is left projecting as a foot rest. The upper ends of the stilts are grasped in the hands. Stilt walking seems to be a solitary sport, practiced mainly by young children.

Among minor toys may be mentioned slender forked sticks, used by boys to imitate cattle horns when they play at fighting bulls or bull baiting. A heavier stick, with a cow's hoof carved on the end, is also used to make artificial cattle tracks in games of cattle stealing or pursuing thieves (Fig. 26, a).

[171] Pop guns are also to be reckoned among the minor toys, although they are pretty certainly of European origin. They are made from sections of bamboo about 1½ inches in diameter and 2 feet long. A strip of bamboo is bent into U form and inserted in a slit in the top of the tube, to serve as a spring. This is drawn back and held by another strip of bamboo which is pivoted to the tube by a wooden pin (Fig. 28, c). These pop guns are used to shoot small stones or clay pellets.

An interesting toy consists of a short section of reed or small bamboo with the end split and spread into a cone. A pith ball is placed in the cone and the player balances it there by throwing back his head and blowing through the tube with exactly the right force (Fig. 27, a).

224 While I was in Ambohimanga the boys frequently brought me
868 small models of traps which they had made. These were offered for sale and I doubt whether such models were used in their own play. They begin to make real traps for small birds and mammals at a
000 very early age. Tanala toys seem to be characterized by an almost